

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWING:

Re-submission of Replacement Formal Drawing for Figure 7 has been filed concurrently.

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are requested.

In response to the replacement formal drawing provided on December 29, 2004 not being accepted, please find provided herewith another replacement formal drawing for Figure 7 labeled as "Replacement Sheet" at the top thereof. This replacement formal drawing labels Figure 7 as --Prior Art--. Acceptance of this replacement formal drawing is earnestly solicited.

In response to the objection to the drawings for not showing the clear protective cover for the opening, please note that this clear protective cover is shown as reference numeral 26 in Figure 4, for example. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that this drawing objection should not be maintained.

Claims 9, 10 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Graalman et al.; claims 9, 10 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP '038; claims 11, 22 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '038 in view of Spannagel et al.; and claims 12-15, 17-21 and 23-27 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, without acquiescing to the appropriateness of the prior art rejections issued by the Examiner, and solely to further advance prosecution of this application, by the current Amendment: claims 9, 12, 13, 17, 19, 23, 24 and 28 have been cancelled; claims 10, 11, 14, 16, 18, 20, 21, 22 and 25-27 have been amended; and claims 29 and 30 have been added.

For the Examiner's convenience, the following table is provided to show correspondence between the currently pending claims and allowed claims 12-15, 17-21 and 23-27.

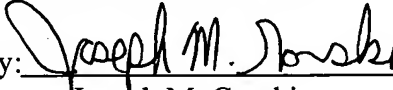
Allowed Claims	Currently Pending Claims
12	10
13	29
14	14
15	15
17	16
18	18
19	30
20	20
21	21
23	11
24	22
25	25
26	26
27	27

Accordingly, because each of the currently pending claims corresponds to one of the claims allowed by the Examiner in the Office Action mailed March 17, 2005, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance, with the allowed claims being 10, 11, 14-16, 18, 20, 21, 22, 25-27, 29 and 30, and an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner believes that any issues remain which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Osamu MURAKAMI et al.

By: 
 Joseph M. Gorski
 Registration No. 46,500
 Attorney for Applicants

JMG/edg
 Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
 Telephone (202) 721-8200
 Facsimile (202) 721-8250
 June 15, 2005